

Date/Time Stamp:

Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Post-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the **Office of Public Records in 232 Hart Building**.

In compliance with Rule 35.2(a) and (c), I make the following disclosures with respect to travel expenses that have been or will be reimbursed/paid for me. I also certify that I have attached:

- ☐ The **original** *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* (Form RE-1), **AND**
☐ A **copy** of the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form* with all attachments (itinerary, invitee list, etc.)

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): The Foundation for Rural Service

Travel date(s): August 17 - 20, 2021

Name of accompanying family member (if any): none

Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

IF THE COST OF LODGING **DID NOT INCREASE** DUE TO THE ACCOMPANYING SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT CHILD, ONLY INCLUDE LODGING COSTS IN EMPLOYEE EXPENSES. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Expenses for Employee:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate	\$1199.69 (airline) + \$217 (coach bus) =	\$288	\$73.07	none
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount	\$1,416.69			

Expenses for Accompanying Spouse or Dependent Child (if applicable):

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate				
<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount				

Provide a description of all meetings and events attended. See Senate Rule 35.2(c)(6). (Attach additional pages if necessary.): See attachment

9/18/2021
(Date)

Rachel Lang
(Printed name of traveler)

Rachel Lang
(Signature of traveler)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER:

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

9/19/2021
(Date)

[Signature]
(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)

Date/Time Stamp:

EMPLOYEE PRE-TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220**. Incomplete and late travel submissions will **not** be considered or approved. This form **must** be typed and is available as a fillable PDF on the Committee's website at ethics.senate.gov. Retain a copy of your entire pre-travel submission for your required post-travel disclosure.

Name of Traveler: Rachel Lang

Employing Office/Committee: U.S. Senate Committee on Finance

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): Foundation for Rural Service (FRS)

Travel date(s): August 17-20, 2021

*Note: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.*

Destination(s): Great Falls, Carter, Havre, Box Elder, and Stanford, Montana

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:

I lead Senator Wyden's telecommunications portfolio, including his work expanding access to rural broadband. This trip will include visits to rural broadband providers, construction areas for fiber deployment, broadband-enabled farms and ranches, telehealth facilities, and opportunities to learn about a wide variety of rural broadband issues in Montana. It will help me to better understand the complex challenges facing rural and remote communities as they attempt to gain access to broadband, as well as help me gain a better understanding of how federal broadband programs impact community-based providers and rural Americans.

Name of accompanying family member (if any): NA

Relationship to Employee: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge:

7/16/2021
(Date)

Rachel Lang
(Signature of Employee)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING SENATOR/OFFICER (President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain):

I, U.S. Senator Ron Wyden hereby authorize Rachel Lang
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name) (Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate. (signify "yes" by checking box) ☐

7/16/2021
(Date)

Ron Wyden
(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)

Lang, Rachel (Wyden)

From: Pam Becker <pbecker@frs.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 9:39 AM
To: Lang, Rachel (Wyden)
Subject: RSVP now to tour Montana this August and learn about rural broadband issues

JOIN FRS FOR A TOUR OF MONTANA TO LEARN ABOUT RURAL BROADBAND ISSUES -- AUGUST 17-20, 2021

Dear Rachel,

The pandemic highlighted the importance of broadband in rural communities. Want to better understand how federal broadband programs like the FCC's Universal Service Fund or the USDA's ReConnect Program impact community-based broadband providers and rural Americans? Join the Foundation for Rural Service as we explore the rugged, historic beauty of Montana and learn about the significance of rural broadband in supporting education, health, commerce, agriculture, and public safety.

The tour will start and end in Bozeman and include visits to rural broadband providers, construction areas for fiber deployment, broadband-enabled farms and ranches, telehealth facilities, and opportunities to learn about a wide variety of rural broadband issues in one of the most beautiful and scenic areas of the country. The trip will leave from Washington, DC on Tuesday, August 17 and return on Friday, August 20.

The trip includes the cost of airfare, transportation within Montana, hotel and food (within federal per diem rates) and will comply with all House and Senate ethics rules on privately-sponsored travel for Hill staff. We will also follow all local, state, and federal CoVid-19 safety guidelines.

For more information or to reserve a space on the trip, please contact me at pbecker@frs.org or (703) 351-2044. **SPACE IS LIMITED.**

Visit <https://www.frs.org/programs/congressional-broadband-tour> for a tentative itinerary of the Montana tour and videos from past tours.

The Foundation for Rural Service is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Arlington, Virginia, that is dedicated to improving quality of life in America by advancing an understanding of rural issues.

Thank you for your interest and I look forward to hearing from you.

-- Pam

Pam Becker, CFRE

Executive Director

Foundation for Rural Service

(703) 351-2044 direct | (703) 346-0817 mobile

4121 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1000 | Arlington, VA 22203

www.frs.org

**FOUNDATION FOR
RURAL SERVICE**

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PRIVATE SPONSOR TRAVEL CERTIFICATION FORM

This form must be completed by any private entity offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to Senate Members, officers, or employees (Senate Rule 35, clause 2). Each sponsor of a fact-finding trip must sign the completed form. The trip sponsor(s) must provide a copy of the completed form to each invited Senate traveler, who will then forward it to the Ethics Committee with any other required materials. The trip sponsor(s) should **NOT** submit the form directly to the Ethics Committee. Please consult the accompanying instructions for more detailed definitions and other key information.

The Senate Member, officer, or employee **MUST** also provide a copy of this form, along with the appropriate travel authorization and reimbursement form, to the Office of Public Records (OPR), Room 232 of the Hart Building, within thirty (30) days after the travel is completed.

-
1. Sponsor(s) of the trip (please list all sponsors): Foundation for Rural Service (FRS)
 2. Description of the trip: Travel throughout Montana to visit local broadband providers and highlight the geographic and financial challenges of providing rural broadband.
 3. Dates of travel: August 17-20, 2021
 4. Place of travel: Great Falls, Havre, Box Elder, and Stanford, Montana (flying in and out of Great Falls)
 5. Name and title of Senate invitees: All Senate telecom staffers (list attached)
 6. I *certify* that the trip fits one of the following categories:
 - ☒ (A) The sponsor(s) are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal **and** do not retain or employ registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal **and** no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.
 - OR -**
 - ☐ (B) The sponsor or sponsors are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, but retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and the trip meets the requirements of Senate Rule 35.2(a)(2)(A)(i) or (ii) (*see question 9*).
 7. ☒ I *certify* that the trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
 - AND -**
 - ☒ I *certify* that the sponsor or sponsors will not accept funds or in-kind contributions earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.
 8. I *certify* that:
 - ☒ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except for *de minimis* lobbyist involvement.
 - AND -**
 - ☒ The traveler will not be accompanied on the trip by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except as provided for by Committee regulations relating to lobbyist accompaniment (*see question 9*).

15. Briefly describe the educational activities performed by each sponsor (other than sponsoring congressional trips):

FRS produces white papers and economic studies on rural broadband issues, hosts an annual youth tour to Washington, DC for rural high school students, sponsors college scholarship and community grant programs, and offers educational events such as Rural Broadband 101 for Hill staff and third parties.

16. Total Expenses for Each Participant:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith estimate	\$1250 (\$1000 for flights and \$250 for bus)	\$288 (\$96 x 3 nights)	\$192 (2 partial days @ \$41.25 and 2 full days at \$55)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts				

17. State whether a) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation or b) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *specifically with regard* to congressional participation:

b.) This trip involves an event that is arranged specifically for congressional staff

18. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip

Rural Montana highlights a wide variety of geographic challenges reflecting those faced by other rural areas of the U.S.

19. Name and location of hotel or other lodging facility:

Day 1: Comfort Inn & Suites -- Airport in Great Falls, MT; Day 2: Best Western Plus Havre Inn & Suites in Havre, MT; Day 3: Comfort Inn & Suites -- Airport in Great Falls, MT

20. Reason(s) for selecting hotel or other lodging facility:

Montana and Yellowstone National Park are both very popular tourist destinations in August. The selected hotels are of good quality and meet the per diem rate requirements.

FOUNDATION FOR
RURAL SERVICE

FRS Congressional Broadband Tour – Montana

August 17-20, 2021

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) is a 501c3 non-profit dedicated to enhancing quality of life in America by promoting a better understanding of rural issues. The vision of FRS is to harness the power of the rural communications industry to enrich lives in America.

The purpose of this trip is to educate Hill staff on the geographic and financial challenges of providing robust broadband service to remote rural areas, as well as to highlight the role rural telecom companies play in providing these essential services that support education, commercial activity, agriculture, health, and public safety. Attendees will visit with a range of small, rural telecommunications companies in Montana as well as companies that provide essential services to these companies. The group will also visit with rural community leaders and discuss ways in which the state has been enhanced by broadband applications. Drive times through Montana will give FRS staff an opportunity to provide educational sessions on the bus, as well as illustrate the difficulty of serving “last mile” areas in a highly rural state.

Per the Ethics rules, no registered lobbyists will attend this trip. All expenses will be paid in full by the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) and will be subject to the daily per diem allowances for Senate and House employees—in other words, all meals, lodging and transportation for staffers will be covered by FRS within these allowance rates.

ITINERARY

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| OPTION A | Leave <u>IAD</u> at 8:55 a.m. United Airlines #1228/4686 via Denver; Arrive Great Falls at 2:04 p.m. |
| OPTION B | Leave <u>IAD</u> at 7:20 a.m. Delta Airlines #776/4298 via Salt Lake City; Arrive Great Falls at 2:23 p.m. |
| OPTION C | Leave <u>DCI</u> at 7:05 a.m. Delta Airlines #457/858/4298 via Atlanta and Salt Lake City; Arrive at 2:23 p.m. |
| 2:30 p.m. | Pam Becker (FRS) will provide staffers with welcome packets and lead them to the bus they will be taking for the entirety of the trip. |
| 3:00 p.m. | Bus to Hotel for check in. |

Senate staffers invited
on trip - provided by FRS

First Name	Last Name	Title	Employer	Party	State	Email	Phone
Jon	Adame	General Counsel	Senator Marsha Blackburn	Republican	TN	jon_adame@blackburn.senate.gov	202-224-3344
Mike	Albares	Senior Policy Adviser	Senator Tommy Tuberville	Republican	AL	michael_albares@tuberville.senate.gov	202-224-4124
Collin	Anderson	Privacy and Cybersecurity Policy Adviser	Senator Richard Blumenthal	Democratic	CT	collin_anderson@blumenthal.senate.gov	202-224-2823
Erica	Andeweg	Legislative Assistant	Senator Deb Fischer	Republican	NE	erica_andeweg@fischer.senate.gov	202-224-6551
Mana	Azarmi	Counsel	Senate Judiciary Committee Immigration Citizenship and Border Safety Subcommittee	Democratic	CA	mana_azarmi@judiciary-dem.senate.gov	202-224-6991
Didier	Barjon	Legislative Assistant	Senator Chuck Schumer	Democratic	NY	didier_barjon@schumer.senate.gov	202-224-6542
Christi	Barnhart	Senior Counsel Technology and Communc	Senator Brian Schatz	Democratic	HI	christianna_barnhart@schatz.senate.gov	202-224-3934
Bryan	Bashur	Legislative Aide	Senator Ted Cruz	Republican	TX	bryan_bashur@cruz.senate.gov	202-224-5922
Mikayla	Bodey		Sen. Debbie Stabenow			Mikayla_Bodey@ag.senate.gov	
Chad	Bolt	Legislative Assistant	Senator Sherrod Brown	Democratic	OH	chad_bolt@brown.senate.gov	202-224-2315
Shawn	Bone		Sen. Maria Cantwell			Shawn_Bone@commerce.senate.gov	
Shelby	Boxenbaum	Counsel	Senator Bob Menendez	Democratic	NJ	shelby_boxenbaum@menendez.senate.gov	202-224-4744
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Sean	Bray		Sen. Ron Johnson			Sean_Bray@ronjohnson.senate.gov	
Will	Brewster	Legislative Correspondent	Senator Richard Shelby	Republican	AL	will_brewster@shelby.senate.gov	202-224-5744
Bennett	Butler	Legislative Assistant	Senator Ed Markey	Democratic	MA	bennett_butler@markey.senate.gov	202-224-2742
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Annie	Chestnut	Legislative Assistant	Senator Ron Johnson	Republican	WI	annie_chestnut@ronjohnson.senate.gov	202-224-5323
Vivek	Chilukuri	Senior Policy Adviser/Speechwriter	Senator Michael Bennet	Democratic	CO	vivek_chilukuri@bennet.senate.gov	202-224-5852
Mark	Copeland	Senior Policy Adviser	Senator Tammy Duckworth	Democratic	IL	mark_copeland@duckworth.senate.gov	202-224-2854
Robert	Curis	Policy Adviser	Senate Democratic Policy and Communications Committee	Democratic	MI	robert_curis@stabenow.senate.gov	202-224-3232
Brendan	Dailey	Legislative Assistant	Senator Shelley Moore Capito	Republican	WV	brendan_dailey@capito.senate.gov	202-224-6472
Alex	De Bianchi	Senior Legislative Assistant	Senator Jacky Rosen	Democratic	NV	alexandrine_debianchi@rosen.senate.gov	202-224-6244
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Meghan	Dorn	Legislative Assistant	Senator Lindsey Graham	Republican	SC	meghan_dorn@lgraham.senate.gov	202-224-5972
Scott	Duff	Legislative Aide	Senator Mitch McConnell	Republican	KY	scott_duff@mcconnell.senate.gov	202-224-2541
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Sally	Farrington	Legislative Assistant	Senator Roger Wicker	Republican	MS	sally_farrington@wicker.senate.gov	202-224-6253
Nathan	Flagg	Legislative Assistant	Senator John Neely Kennedy	Republican	LA	nathan_flagg@kennedy.senate.gov	202-224-4623
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Seth	Gainer	Senior Policy Adviser	Senator Joe Manchin	Democratic	WV	seth_gainer@manchin.senate.gov	202-224-3954
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Curtis	Grady	Legislative Correspondent	Senator John Hoeven	Republican	ND	curtis_grady@hoeven.senate.gov	202-224-2551
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Jeff	Hantson	Counsel	Senator Mazie Hirono	Democratic	HI	jeff_hantson@hirono.senate.gov	202-224-6361
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Virginia	Hayes	Legislative Aide	Senator Tammy Duckworth	Democratic	IL	virginia_hayes@duckworth.senate.gov	202-224-2854
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Drew	Lingle	Legislative Aide	Senator Kevin Cramer	Republican	ND	drew_lingle@cramer.senate.gov	202-224-2043
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Kurt	Lynch	Legislative Aide	Senator Catherine Cortez Masto	Democratic	NV	kurt_lynch@cortezmasto.senate.gov	202-224-3542
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Jesse	Mahan	Legislative Assistant	Senator James Lankford	Republican	OK	jesse_mahan@lankford.senate.gov	202-224-5754
Nick	Malatesta	Legislative Assistant	Senator Maggie Hassan	Democratic	NH	nicholas_malatesta@hassan.senate.gov	202-224-3324
John	Maniscalco	Counsel	Senator Rand Paul	Republican	KY	john_maniscalco@paul.senate.gov	202-224-4343
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Evan	McWalters	Legislative Assistant	Senator Tim Kaine	Democratic	VA	evan_mcwalters@kaine.senate.gov	202-224-4024
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Olivia	Oo	Legislative Assistant	Senator Jon Tester	Democratic	MT	olivia_oo@tester.senate.gov	202-224-2644
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Avery	Pierson	Legislative Assistant	Senator Rob Portman	Republican	OH	avery_pierson@portman.senate.gov	202-224-3353

CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, DELAWARE, CHAIRMAN
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DEBORAH SUE MAYER, CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR
WILLIAM CABLE, CHIEF CLERK

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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

August 9, 2021

Rachel Lang
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ms. Lang:

This responds to your recent correspondence concerning an invitation you received to travel to the *Congressional Broadband Tour* in Great Falls, Carter, Havre, Box Elder, and Stanford, Montana, on August 17–20, 2021, sponsored by the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS). FRS certified to the Select Committee on Ethics (the Committee) that it will pay the *necessary expenses*¹ related to the travel and that it is neither a lobbyist, lobbying firm, agent of a foreign principal, or otherwise acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government. FRS has also certified that it does not retain or employ a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal and that no registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal will accompany you at *any point throughout your trip*.²

Based on information and materials available to the Committee, and assuming the **actual** travel and travel-related expenses conform to the information and materials you provided, it appears that the proposed payment or reimbursement of necessary expenses for this trip **may be accepted** under relevant Senate Rules and the Committee's *Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel*, so long as at the time of the payment or reimbursement, FRS is neither a registered lobbyist or lobbying firm under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, or an agent of a foreign principal under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (and is not otherwise acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government), and provided the travel and all required documents are disclosed to the Secretary of the Senate in accordance with the provisions of Senate Rules 34 and 35.

Under Senate Rule 35, Senate staff must receive advance authorization signed by the Member or officer under whose direct supervision the individual works in order to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary expenses related to fact-finding travel. Further, such authorization and expenses must be disclosed to the Secretary of the Senate by filing the completed *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* and the *Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses* (Form RE-1 and Form RE-2), along with a copy of the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form*, and all relevant attachments (e.g., the private sponsor's invitation and itinerary) **within 30 days of the conclusion of Privately-Sponsored Travel**.

¹ The term "necessary expenses" has a specific definition. See *Select Committee on Ethics' Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel – Glossary of Terms* at 8.

² The term "any point throughout your trip" has a specific definition. See *id.* at 2.

Finally, Senate Rule 34 requires a reporting individual,³ on his or her Financial Disclosure Report, to make an annual disclosure of the receipt of payments or reimbursements under Senate Rule 35 from a private sponsor for officially-related travel expenses where, in the aggregate, travel expenses exceed \$415 from that sponsor during a calendar year. However, if a Member, officer, or employee properly reports the receipt of necessary expenses for such travel to the Secretary of the Senate within 30 days of the travel, as discussed above, the travel expenses need not be disclosed a second time on their Financial Disclosure Report.

I hope you find this information helpful. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Committee.

Sincerely,



Shannon Hamilton Kopplin
Acting Chief Counsel and Staff Director

Enclosure: Travel Checklist

³ A reporting individual is someone whose salary equals or exceeds 120% of the basic rate of pay for GS-15 (\$132,552 for CY 2021) or is a political fund designee and is required to file Financial Disclosure Reports.

FINAL



FRS Congressional Broadband Tour – Montana

August 17-20, 2021

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) is a 501c3 non-profit dedicated to enhancing quality of life in America by promoting a better understanding of rural issues. The vision of FRS is to harness the power of the rural communications industry to enrich lives in America.

The purpose of this trip is to educate Hill staff on the geographic and financial challenges of providing robust broadband service to remote rural areas, as well as to highlight the role rural telecom companies play in providing these essential services that support education, commercial activity, agriculture, health, and public safety. Attendees will visit with a range of small, rural telecommunications companies in Montana as well as companies that provide essential services to these companies. The group will also visit with rural community leaders and discuss ways in which the state has been enhanced by broadband applications. Drive times through Montana will give FRS staff an opportunity to provide educational sessions on the bus, as well as illustrate the difficulty of serving “last mile” areas in a highly rural state.

Per the Ethics rules, no registered lobbyists will attend this trip. All expenses will be paid in full by the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) and will be subject to the daily per diem allowances for Senate and House employees—in other words, all meals, lodging and transportation for staffers will be covered by FRS within these allowance rates.

ITINERARY

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

7:05 a.m.-2:23 p.m.	Fly from Washington, DC Delta Airlines #457/858/4298 via Atlanta and Salt Lake City; Arrive Great Falls International Airport, Great Falls, MT
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PLEASE NOTE THAT ALEX SACHTJEN, JOHN LIN, RACHEL LANG AND OLIVIA TRUSTY were all on flights that were significantly delayed and didn’t arrive in Great Falls, MT until 10:45 p.m. on August 17. They went straight to the hotel from the airport.

10:45 p.m.	Bus to Hotel for check in.
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Comfort Inn & Suites Market – Airport
1801 Market Drive
Great Falls, MT 59404
406-455-1000

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

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|--------------------|---|
| 8:00 a.m. | Breakfast at hotel |
| 9:00 – 9:10 a.m. | Board bus and drive to Vision Net (1309 NW Bypass, Great Falls, MT 59404). |
| 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. | <p>At Vision Net, the group will receive an industry overview, a history of broadband funding mechanisms in the state such as the Universal Service Fund, and how funding programs and policies affect the telecommunications providers of Montana.</p> <p>The group will tour Vision Net’s network operations center (NOC) and learn about the advanced managed services provided by Vision Net to enterprise customers around the nation. Vision Net, founded by rural Montana telecommunications providers as an Internet managed services consortium, is a telecommunication solutions company with offices in Great Falls, Billings, Helena and Missoula. The company’s suite of products and services includes: statewide 911 network management; broadband network transport; a range of Internet access services; design and management of customized wide area network (WAN) solutions including SD-WAN, a full line of end point and network security products, and Unified Communications/Hosted VoIP; and network device monitoring.</p> <p>Presentation and tour provided by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geoff Feiss, General Manager, Montana Telecommunications Association • Corey Jensen, CEO, Vision Net • Gary Evans, COO, Vision Net |
| 10:15 – 10:30 a.m. | Board bus and ride to Benefis Health System/Sletten Cancer Center (1117 29th St S, Great Falls, MT 59405) |
| 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. | <p>Tour and Visit Benefis Health System, a nonprofit independent health care system based in the city of Great Falls and Montana’s largest hospital. Benefis serves about 164,000 residents in a vast, 13-county region and operates REACH-MT, a regional telemedicine network providing health services to remotely located health care providers throughout northcentral Montana. At Benefis, executives will provide an overview of how Benefis Health System uses telehealth capabilities for their patients. Presenters will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jody Haines, Director of Telemedicine at Billings Clinic and President, Montana Telehealth Association |

- Gene Koppy, Telehealth Network Administrator
- Christian Balcer, Manager of Telemedicine and Business Development

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Board bus and travel to the Logan Good Farm (573 Black Horse Lake Road, Carter, MT). Eat box lunch on bus while traveling.

12:15 – 1:15 p.m. Tour the large farming operation and see “Smart Ag” applications in use on the farm. Former Boeing engineer and fourth generation farmer Logan Good will highlight the use of broadband technologies and advanced smart ag equipment in optimizing efficiencies in large-scale farming operations and discuss federal/state ag policy and economics.

1:30 – 2:50 p.m. Board bus and travel to Triangle Communications (2121 US-2 Havre, MT 59501)

On the bus Pam Becker and Geoff Feiss will review the day’s visits and answer questions from staffers. Pam and Geoff will discuss the unique west vs. east geography of the state and how these differences affect the state’s economy and resources.

3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Visit and tour of Triangle Communications and Hill County Rural Electric Cooperative to learn about the challenges rural broadband and electricity cooperatives face in meeting customers’ demand and exceeding expectations. The visit will include a “hands-on” demonstration of fiber infrastructure construction equipment and assets. See first-hand construction equipment, fiber trenchers, fiber cable and other material involved in deploying fiber infrastructure.

Triangle Telephone Cooperative (TTC) is a company owned by its members. The cooperative was incorporated on March 24, 1953 in Havre, Montana by rural residents of Central Montana. The company provides telecommunications services including Broadband Internet, local, long distance and mobile telephone service to residents of Central Montana. Their 17,000+ subscribers live in parts of 16 counties from the Canadian to the Wyoming borders covering 23,000 square miles. Hill County Electric Cooperative was started by rural residents of Hill County who wanted to enjoy the benefits of electricity. HCE was incorporated in 1945 and the first electric services were provided to members in the spring of 1947. The group will also hear from the manager of Triangle Wireless who will discuss the challenges of providing wireless services in rural Montana, as well as issues like 5G and supply chain security.

Speakers include:

- Craig Gates, CEO, Triangle Communications and Hill County Electric Cooperative
- Robert Pleninger, Manager of Telephone Engineering & Operations, Triangle Communications and Hill County Electric Cooperative
- Tim Nixdorf, Manager, Triangle Wireless
- Bethany Chinadle, VP of Customer Operations, Triangle Communications

5:00 – 5:10 p.m.

Bus to hotel for check in

Best Western Plus Havre Inn & Suites

1425 Highway 2 NW
Havre, MT 59501
406-265-2888

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Walk to dinner at Murphy's (1465 US-2 A, Havre). The group will be joined by executives from Triangle Communications who will answer questions about the earlier tour and presentation and provide their perspective on the broadband industry. Guests will be:

- Craig Gates, CEO, Triangle Communications and Hill County Electric Cooperative
- Bethany Chinadle, VP of VP of Customer Operations, Triangle Communications

Thursday, August 19, 2021

8:00 a.m.

Breakfast at hotel

9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Board bus and travel to Northern Telephone Cooperative Central Office (Highway 215 in Kevin, MT)

During ride Geoff Feiss will lead discussion about fiber construction challenges in rural areas and what options are possible for telecommunications companies.

Aimee Dietrich, General Manager and Justin Gallup, Plant Network Engineer, will brief the group on Northern Telephone Cooperative's service territory, history, operations, etc. and current fiber construction in Kevin. Northern Telephone Cooperative provides basic and advanced telecommunications

services and broadband Internet access to 1,100+ homes and businesses whose locations are spread across more than 3,200 square miles in north central Montana. Tour fiber construction site at Kevin, MT.

11:30 – 12:30 p.m.

Board bus and travel to Glacier Park Lodge (499 MT-49, East Glacier Park Village, MT 59434)

12:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Lunch and discussion with Mike Sheard, General Manager of Siyeh Communications and George Heavy Runner, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Siyeh Corporation. Siyeh Communications (SiyCom) is a telecommunications/broadband utility chartered by the Siyeh Corporation, a federally chartered corporation of the Blackfeet Tribe.

Discussion will include the Blackfeet Nation's business operations, including Siyeh Corporation, and SiyCom, Montana's newest telecommunications carrier, established January 2021. Mike Sheard will discuss various Tribal telecommunications programs, including SiyCom's use of 2.5 GHz spectrum and plans for using other federal Tribal infrastructure support programs.

3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Board bus for return to Great Falls. During ride Geoff Feiss will lead discussion and answer questions about the unique aspects of providing telecommunications service to reservations.

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Dinner at the Cattlemen's Cut Steakhouse (1400 Market Place Drive) a Great Falls tradition. Pam Becker and Geoff Feiss will recap the trip, lead Q&A and survey the group for comments on content and logistics of the trip.

7:30 p.m.

Check in to hotel

Comfort Inn & Suites Market – Airport
1801 Market Drive
Great Falls, MT 59404
406-455-1000

Friday, August 20, 2021

7:00 a.m. – 3:56 p.m.

Fly from Great Falls to Washington, DC, Delta #4292/760 via Salt Lake City